

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7009

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2821

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, BR

SUBJ: BRAZILIAN PRESS STORIES ON GENSCHER TALKS

REF: A) STATE 087926 B) BRASILIA 2680 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS NOTED STATEMENT IN REFTEL A THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA PROMOTED NEWS STORIES ON SUPPOSED NEW USG PRESSURES ON BRAZIL/FRG AGREEMENT DURING GENSCHER VISIT. FROM OUR READING OF THE BRAZILIAN PRESS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SILVEIRA HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROMOTING THESE ACCOUNTS.

2. BRAZILIAN PRESS STORIES CLAIMING THAT NEW PRESSURES WERE INVOLVED OR THAT A URANIUM BOYCOTT AGAINST FRG WAS BEING THREATENED HAVE BEEN SIGNED ARTICLES BY THE BONN CORRESPONDENTS OF MAJOR BRAZILIAN DAILIES, PARTICULARLY O ESTADO'S WILLIAM WAACK AND JORNAL DO BRAZIL'S RICARDO KOTSCHO. AS REPORTED REFTEL B THE AUTHORS HAVE IN TURN CITED THE FRG PRESS AS THEIR SOURCES. FOR EXAMPLE, ON 4 APRIL WAACK CITED A DER SPIEGEL ARTICLE OF "YESTERDAY" (PRESUMABLY 2 APRIL) AS THE SOURCE OF THE ALLEGATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD SENT A "CIRCULAR TO ALL EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES ALERTING DIPLOMATS THAT THE UNITED

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STATES WOULD IMMEDIATELY CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF ALL NUCLEAR FUEL TO GERMANY. THE MOMENT GERMANY BECOMES INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD LEAD TO BRAZILIAN MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." ACCORDING TO WAACK, THE DER SPIEGEL ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED FOR THIS BOYCOTT TO BE IMPLEMENTED WAS A US PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION THAT BRAZIL AND THE FRG

WERE NOT MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS APPLYING  
NEW SAFEGUARDS TO PROJECTS UNDER THE BRAZIL-FRG ACCORD.

3. KOTSCHO CITED THE SAME DER SPIEGEL ARTICLE IN  
SOMEWHAT LESS INFLAMATORY TERMS IN HIS OWN LARGELY  
SPECULATIVE PIECE ON 3 APRIL, IN WHICH HE PORTRAYED  
THE FATE OF THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORD AS HANGING  
IN THE BALANCE OF INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL  
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON, BRASILIA, AND BONN  
AND WITHIN THE FRG ITSELF. ON 4 APRIL, KOTSCHO CITED  
THE FRANKFURTTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG AND DIE WELT AS  
CLAIMING THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORD WAS DIRECTLY  
AFFECTED BY THE NON-PROLIFERATION ACT.  
HOWEVER, IN AN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE, KOTSCHO PRESENTED THE  
GENSCHER VISIT AS FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON BILATERAL NATO MATTERS.

4. SUBSEQUENT COMMENT IN BRAZILIAN PRESS AND OFFICIAL  
CIRCLES HAS BEEN GENERALLY ACCURATE AND WELL-INFORMED  
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GENSCHER VISIT AND THE NON-  
PROLIFERATION ACT. ON 4 APRIL, FOREIGN MINISTRY  
SPOKESMAN LAMPREIA DECLINED TO FUEL THE SPECULATION  
ORIGINATING IN THE FRG ABOUT NEW PRESSURES ON THE FRG/  
BRAZILIAN ACCORD, AND THE EMBASSY ALSO TOOK STEPS TO  
INSURE THAT THE PRESS WAS ACCURATELY INFORMED (WHICH,  
IN LARGE PART, IT ALREADY WAS) ON THE PROVISIONS  
OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION ACT. THERE HAS BEEN NO  
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INDICATION IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA  
OR FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES WERE INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL  
SPECULATION, AND, SINCE IT IS NOT SILVEIRA'S STYLE TO THOROUGHLY  
CONCEAL HIS ROLE IN THIS SORT OF THING, THE EMBASSY IS FAIRLY  
CONFIDENT WE WOULD HAVE SEEN HIS HAND IF HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED.

5. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE SOURCE  
OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER  
SILVEIRA HAS BEEN BEHIND THIS. IF THE SOURCE WAS  
PAULO FRANCIS, THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE  
FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, WE WOULD CAUTION THAT  
HE IS NOT CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY RELIABLE.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, MEETINGS, THREATS, EMBARGOES  
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